

- the existence of trade-offs between impact categories, primarily causing differentiation in requirements for impact assessment
- 2) the economic or social consequence of the decision in question, primarily causing differentiation in requirements for certainty, transparency and documentation
- 3) the context of the decision, especially the elements that implicitly derive from the problem to be studied or the task to be solved in connection with the decision; primarily relates to impact assessment.

Knowing these variables and their way of influencing the methodology facilitates the identification of the specific needs within a given LCA application.

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## Conference Reports: First LCA Workshop in Greece

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On December 16th, 1997, the first Greek workshop on LCA was organised at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki by the Laboratory of Heat Transfer and Environmental Engineering (LHTEE). The meeting was held in the city of Thessaloniki with many attendees from industry and academia.

The aim of the workshop was to present the new environmental tool of LCA to the Greek community in general, to exchange ideas and to have an initial impression of the areas in which LCA could be applied in Greece. The papers presented at the workshop covered the whole spectrum of the industrial activity in the country. The presentations were arranged in such a way as to first introduce the participants to this new tool and then have a series of applications which revealed the need to reinforce LCA in all phases of production. The methodology of LCA was presented combined with the history of its usage in different phases of production and in different countries. The connection of LCA with the ISO 14000 series was demonstrated and the requirements how to implement this certificate. The application of LCA in the Greek telecommunication industry was shown, in a company that has already obtained the ISO 14001 certificate. Since Greece has a big food industry, LCA could play a major role in reducing the energy consumption and the waste that frequently ends up in the Greek rivers; the environmental treatment industry is not very well developed. Even though Greece does not have a big chemical industry, it is the biggest environmental polluter that concerns everyone.

A paper was presented on the application of LCA in the chemical industry; another participant analysed the area of energy production and the importance of LCA in selecting the form of energy as

to how establish its environmental impact in comparison with its monetary value.

HELCANET, a Greek LCA network, was created for the purpose of bringing together organisations and individuals in industry and academia. HELCANET, for the present time, tries to initiate new projects (see p. 272).

The proceedings including all workshop presentations were published by LHTEE in Greek (Director Prof. N. MOUSSIOPOULOS and Miss A. BOURA).

For further information about the workshop, HELCANET and the registration procedure in order to become a member of the network, please refer to the following web page:  
<http://aix.meng.auth.gr/lhtee/helcanet>

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